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1 November 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Deputy Director for Administration

THRU: Executive Officer to the DDA ² NOV 1 1983

FROM:
Directorate of Administration
Information Review Officer

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SUBJECT: Comments on the OIS Proposal for a
Historical Access/Declassification Program

1. I believe that subject proposal from DIS is premature, particularly in regard to additional resources. Further, I don't see a firm commitment in the DCI letter to Senator Durenberger for a historical review program. It seems to me that Mr. Casey made it clear in his letter that any such program would be contingent on Congress providing additional resources.

2. There is no sizeable holding of unclassified material that could be released quickly. The documents that were reviewed by the Classification Review Division/OIS under the Systematic Classification Review Program mandated by EO 12065 cannot be released without prior review and approval of the originating organizations. These records are still the property of the originating or successor organizations. The other Directorate IROs who received a copy of tab B have expressed their concerns to me as well as members of OIS over the release of their records. In fact, they object to even releasing the list prepared by CRD. I have, in turn, discussed this concern with DIS and suggested that any such plans be coordinated with all Directorate IROs.

3. Basically, the OIS proposal is to establish another Systematic Review Program--and in my opinion and in that of the other Directorate IROs, we should stubbornly resist. I believe we do need to address the Agency's policy concerning access for historical research. However, there are other factors that need to be considered; there is now a procedure in the Code of Federal Regulations (32 CFR, part 1900.61) that addresses access for historical review and there is at least one case in current litigation, Miller vs. Casey that has a direct bearing on this problem. In the near future, I would like to put together a paper on the problems and pitfalls of a pre-review (systematic) program for historical or any other purpose. Also, I will include some thoughts on how an historical access program could work with minimum risk.

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